POISON IVY™

43

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ALL IN

DC COMICS FINALLY GOES MAD!

MAD ABOUT DC

A 64-PAGE ONE-SHOT CELEBRATION OF COMICS, CHAOS & QUESTIONABLE DECISIONS

GUEST EDITED BY CHIP ZDARSKY!

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MAD ABOUT DC
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VARIANT COVER BY CHIP ZDARSKY

THE MAYOR'S MANSION. A SHORT WHILE EARLIER.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYIN'?

ARE YOU SAYIN' YOU DON'T LOVE ME NO MORE?

It was like a **bad joke.**

Too **painful** *to be funny, but you have to stay to hear the* **punchline** *anyway.*

I DO LOVE YOU, HARLEY. I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU.

THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS, RIGHT?

...not anymore.

IT'S BIGGER THAN YOU AND ME NOW. I HAVE REAL POWER, LEGITIMATE POWER-- AND IF I LOSE IT, WE'RE ALL DEAD.

I'M *TRYIN'* TO BE WHAT YOU NEED ME TO BE.

I SMILED, I WAVED, I WORE THE STUPID *OUTFIT*-- I WAS READY TO BE THE *FIRSTEST* LADY OF GOTHAM--

I know, I *know.*

I KNOW YOU'RE TRYING. BUT IT'S *NOT ENOUGH.*

So, ARE YOU...

...ARE YOU SAYIN' THIS *JOB* MATTERS MORE TO YOU THAN...

...than *me?*

OF COURSE NOT.

I'M SAYING I *NEED* THIS JOB RIGHT NOW.

AND I CAN'T SHOW UP AT *TELEVISED EVENTS* WITH SOMEONE WHO ACTS LIKE--

LIKE WHAT?

A CLOWN?

...yes.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

YOU'RE *ASHAMED* OF ME.

NO! I COULD *NEVER* BE ASHAMED OF YOU.

YOU'RE THE SMARTEST, *BRAVEST,* MOST BEAUTIFUL PERSON I'VE EVER MET--

I had it all.

Power over my enemies. A chance to remake the city of Gotham in my own image.

HARLEY, WAIT-- LET ME *EXPLAIN*--

I'VE HAD *ENOUGH* OF YOUR EXPLAININ'.

Yet I was already asking myself...

THE MAYOR'S OFFICE. NOW.

...was it all worth it?

MADAM MAYOR?

I'm *begging* you to just call me by my *name*, Janet. You've seen me *naked*.

FINE. I'LL START OVER.

PAM?

Yeeesss?

YOUR 9:30 APPOINTMENT IS HERE.

SOME KIND OF *PLUMBING TYCOON.*

APPARENTLY, HE WON THE BID TO REPLACE A BUNCH OF AGING PIPES IN THE *SEWER* SYSTEM.

FINE. GOOD.

IS OUR *TOOTHY* FRIEND OUT THERE WITH HIM? INFRASTRUCTURE IS *HIS* PURVIEW.

THEY'RE BOTH WAITING OUTSIDE.

I tried to pull myself together.

SEND THEM IN.

Even though the only thing I wanted to do was crawl to **Harley's** *place and beg for* **forgiveness.**

BOSS. THIS IS *MR. GRASP.*

HOW D'YOU DO, MRS. MAYOR.

MADAM MAYOR.

SORRY. I DON'T SPEAK FRENCH.

I'M GLAD WE CAN *WORK* TOGETHER.

MY FAMILY HAS SERVICED THIS CITY FOR A *HUNDRED* YEARS. WE BUILT ALL THE STUFF YOU CAN'T EVEN *SEE* FROM THE SURFACE. WATER MAINS, DRAINAGE, SEWER SYSTEMS--

--EVEN THOUGH MAYORS CHANGE, IT'S NICE TO SEE SOME *CONTINUITY.*

Continuity. Usually code for incompetence.

Right.

Well, LET'S GO TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR FAMILY'S HANDIWORK.

YOU MEAN-- GO UNDER-GROUND?

Come on. YOU'RE A PLUMBER.

YOU'RE NOT AFRAID OF TIGHT SPACES, ARE YOU?

OF COURSE NOT.

I LOVE TIGHT-- uh--umm--

GOOD. I COULD USE SOME FRESH AIR ANYWAY.

JANET, TELL ANYONE WHO CALLS I'LL BE BACK IN AN HOUR.

IS THIS A GOOD IDEA?

NO CLUE.

I JUST HOPE SHE KEEPS HIM AWAY FROM THE SECRET STUFF.

In fact, figuring out how much this guy knew about Gotham's underground was exactly what I was hoping to accomplish.

His family business may have built the city's soft underbelly...

Now... SHOULD WE GO THE SHORT WAY OR THE LONG WAY?

THERE'S A LONG WAY?

...but they're **not** the ones who've had to **live** in it.

And this was the **first** opportunity I'd ever had to ask...

BELIEVE ME, MR. GRASP, THERE ARE WHOLE **WORLDS** BENEATH THE STREETS OF GOTHAM.

...do the fancy suits at **City Hall** understand what goes on down here?

I GOTTA ADMIT-- I MOSTLY DEAL WITH THE ***EXECUTIVE*** SIDE OF THINGS--

--I DON'T GENERALLY GET MY FEET WET--

Or are they just **guessing?**

And how much have I forgotten, since I've been away?

Ah. HERE WE ARE.

The presence chamber of **Queen Ivy.**

One of **many** selves I've been over the years.

HOME SWEET HOME.

I haven't been down here since I infected myself with **lamia spores** and set off to **destroy humankind.***

*Back in *Batman* #124 & *Poison Ivy* #1! --"Antediluvian" Arianna

When I left, all the plants in this chamber were **dying.**

HELLO, LITTLE FRIEND.

But life is a **circle.**

Everything comes back around eventually.

THUD

Huh?!

And I'm not the **only** one who has a **history** with this place.

YOU'RE A ***HARD*** WOMAN TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THESE DAYS, YOU KNOW THAT?

I'M THE ***MAYOR*** OF ***GOTHAM***, CATWOMAN. YOU COULD'VE JUST MADE AN ***APPOINTMENT.***

AND DELIVER MYSELF STRAIGHT INTO SAVAGE'S HANDS?

Yeah, right.

TELL ME THE ***TRUTH***, IVY. WHAT ARE YOU PLAYING AT WITH ALL THIS ***CIVIL SERVANT*** NONSENSE?

BECAUSE I ***KNOW*** YOU DIDN'T RUN FOR MAYOR OUT OF THE ***GOODNESS OF YOUR HEART.***

LEGITIMATE POWER WAS THE ONLY WAY TO ***PROTECT*** MYSELF FROM MY ***ENEMIES.***

THAT'S PRETTY ***SELFISH.***

YOU SOUND ***SURPRISED.***

AND ***HARLEY?*** WHAT ABOUT WHAT'S BEST FOR ***HER?***

DON'T TALK TO ME ABOUT HARLEY. YOU WEREN'T ***THERE.*** YOU DON'T--

WOW.

YOU'RE *HER.*

THE *CAT* LADY. I'VE SEEN YOUR PICTURE IN THE PAPERS.

...

WHO'S HE?

THE NEPO BABY OF A *PLUMBING* MAGNATE. WE'RE TAKING A HARD LOOK AT HIS FAMILY'S LEGACY.

YOU BETTER KEEP HIM AWAY FROM THE BIG STUFF.

THAT'S THE PLAN.

WAIT! DON'T GO! I'D LOVE TO TAKE YOU TO DINNER LATER...

...THINK SHE'D GIVE ME HER *AUTO-GRAPH?*

YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO SEE HER AGAIN.

LET'S GO.

IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, THERE'S A HUGE NETWORK OF WATER AND SEWAGE PIPES DOWN HERE SOMEWHERE--

That's when I noticed it.

What the--

Richard II. One of Shakespeare's history plays.

It catapulted me **straight** back to Mrs. McNeil's twelfth-grade English class.

And it **definitely** wasn't there when we came in.

CATWOMAN, DID YOU--?

I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'RE A FAN OF SHAKESPEARE, MR. GRASP?

SURE I AM.

I TAKE MY DAUGHTER TO *YE OLDE GOTHAM* EVERY YEAR FOR HER BIRTH-DAY.

Great. Good.

Culture.

...it's not him.

NO EXIT

COME ON.

IT'S SOMEWHERE ALONG THIS TUNNEL, UNLESS THINGS HAVE *CHANGED* SINCE I WAS DOWN HERE LAST.

MRS.--MAYOR-- *MADAM* POISON, THIS REALLY ISN'T NECESSARY--

--I ASSURE YOU THAT ALL OF *GRASP INFRASTRUCTURE'S* WORK IS *TOP-NOTCH.* WE DON'T NEED TO GO CRAWLING AROUND IN THE SEWERS--

"JASON TODD WAS HERE"

YOU MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN AWAY WITH A *RUBBER STAMP* UNDER THE LAST FEW MAYORS, MR. GRASP, BUT I INTEND TO BE A LOT MORE *HANDS-ON.*

AND WHAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO *CHANGE* A SYSTEM THAT WAS WORKING FINE FOR *DECADES* BEFORE YOU SHOWED UP?

YOU WANT TO MAKE ME INTO A *SYMBOL* OF WHATEVER IT IS YOU DON'T *LIKE,* MRS. IVY, BUT SOMEBODY'S GOTTA DO THE WORK NOBODY ELSE *WANTS* TO DO. IT'S NOT--

--oh wow. I'VE NEVER SEEN *THIS* BEFORE.

THAT'S GOTTA BE A *HUNDRED* YEARS OF WORK RIGHT THERE.

I IMAGINE SO.

DOESN'T SEEM VERY UP-TO-DATE.

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU GUYS JUST KEPT *ADDING* BITS AS THE YEARS WENT BY.

GOTTA KEEP UP WITH *DEMAND*. DOESN'T LEAVE MUCH ROOM FOR *INNOVATION*.

YOU *IDEALISTS* THINK YOU CAN JUST FLIP A SWITCH AND FIX EVERYTHING OVERNIGHT.

BUT THE FACT IS, THESE SYSTEMS WORK THE WAY THEY DO FOR A *REASON*. THEY MAY NOT BE FANCY, BUT THEY'RE *RELIABLE*.

AND *THAT*?

WHERE DOES THAT *RELIABLY* GO?

I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE EVERY RANDOM PIPE GOES-- IT WAS PROBABLY INSTALLED BY SOME APPRENTICE PLUMBER BACK IN MY *GRAND-FATHER'S* DAY--

IF WE *FOLLOWED* THAT PIPE, WHAT ARE THE CHANCES WE WOULD FIND OUT IT DUMPS ALL THAT RAW SEWAGE STRAIGHT INTO THE *RIVER?*

ALL-- ALL SEWAGE IS PROPERLY TREATED AND DISPOSED OF--

I WAS DRAWN TO THIS CITY BECAUSE I HEARD IT *SCREAMING.* SUFFOCATING. THE GROUND ITSELF *CHOKED* BY CENTURIES OF INDUSTRIAL SLUDGE.

AND THE *WATER*-- EVERY WEED AND SEED *POISONED*--

THAT-- ALL THAT WAS *BEFORE* MY TIME--

YOU CAN'T *BRAG* ABOUT YOUR FAMILY BUSINESS AND THEN PRETEND YOU DON'T KNOW ITS SECRETS.

BUY THE TICKET, TAKE THE *RIDE.*

--*COME ON!* PUT ME DOWN! THIS IS *INSANITY!*

Wait-- IT'S JUST A LITTLE HARMLESS RUNOFF--

YOU THINK *MURDERING* ME IS GOING TO FIX *CORRUPTION* IN GOTHAM?!

Well, MR. GRASP...

...WE'LL NEVER KNOW UNLESS WE *TRY.*

MEANWHILE.

STILL NO WORD FROM THE *BOSS?*

NOT SINCE THE *LAST* TIME YOU ASKED.

NOT EVEN A TEXT?

SHE'D TEXT *YOU* BEFORE SHE'D TEXT ME. I'M NOT HER *FLUNKY.*

ARE YOU *SLEEPING* WITH HER?

I DON'T SEE WHY IT'S ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS IF I *AM.*

IT'S ***DEFINITELY*** MY BUSINESS IF THE HEAD OF ***HUMAN RESOURCES*** IS COMMITTING THE NUMBER ONE WORKPLACE-ETHICS VIOLATION.

IVY AND I WEREN'T TECHNICALLY ***COWORKERS*** UNTIL RECENTLY.

YOU DON'T ***HAVE*** TO BE HER FLUNKY, YOU KNOW. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE ***ANYBODY'S*** FLUNKY.

YOU'RE ALLOWED TO ***WALK AWAY.***

What if I don't want to?

BZZT BZZT

PAM? WHERE *ARE* YOU?

Oh god-- PLEASE JUST *THINK* ABOUT IT FIRST--

--YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO STRAIGHT FOR THE *NUCLEAR* OPTION EVERY SINGLE TIME--

★@#!

--she's going to *murder* the plumbing tycoon.

Well, *I'M* NOT WRITING THAT PRESS RELEASE.

GOOD LUCK.

AND JANET? LOOK AT WHAT KIND OF *ADMINISTRATION* YOUR *BOSS* IS RUNNING.

AND THEN *THINK* ABOUT WHAT I SAID.

Hey. At least I gave Janet a **heads-up** before I took matters into my own hands. A year ago, I wouldn't have **bothered.**

YOU CAN'T DO THIS--

--NOT FOR A LITTLE **SEWAGE** ISSUE--

--IT'S NOT LIKE ANYBODY **SWIMS** IN THAT RIVER--

ALL THE **OTHER** MAYORS LOOKED THE OTHER **WAY!**

AND NOW **SUDDENLY** YOU WANT TO **CHANGE** EVERY-THING?!

YOU HAD **DECADES** TO FIX THE PROBLEMS YOU CREATED. INSTEAD, YOU JUST COLLECTED YOUR **CHECKS.**

THIS ISN'T SUDDEN. THIS IS **OVERDUE.**

With that, he went **silent.**

Draecana draco. The dragon tree.

It can survive in almost **complete darkness.**

Mr. Grasp is now at the mercy of the very dirt he thought was so **unimportant.**

And they say you can't get **justice** in this world.

PETER? ARE YOU ***BUSY*** AT THE MOMENT?

Oh, NOTHING. IT'S JUST THAT WE'RE GOING TO NEED A NEW ***PLUMBING CONTRACTOR.*** I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE BETTER SUGGESTIONS THAN ***WARREN*** DID.

YUP. THIS ***OTHER*** GUY DIDN'T WORK OUT.

BY THE WAY... HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE ***HOLLOW CROWN*** SPEECH?

YEAH, THE ONE FROM ***SHAKESPEARE.*** I HAD TO ***MEMORIZE*** IT FOR TWELFTH-GRADE ENGLISH.

IT'S A ***WARNING*** ABOUT THE EMPTINESS OF POWER AND THE INEVITABILITY OF ***DEATH.***

AND YOU'RE SAYING IT POPPED UP ON A WALL WHILE YOUR ***BACK*** WAS TURNED? I FIND THAT ***UNLIKELY.***

Listen-- I'M ***CONCERNED.*** MURDERING BUSINESS-MEN AND SEEING SHAKESPEAREAN QUOTATIONS ON WALLS--

WE BOTH KNOW HOW ***PARANOID*** YOU GET WHEN YOU THINK THE PEOPLE CLOSE TO YOU HAVE TURNED ***AGAINST*** YOU.

THE BUSINESSMEN ALL ***DESERVED*** *IT.*

OMG! It's her!

THERE ARE OTHER, MORE ***DIPLOMATIC*** WAYS TO SOLVE CONFLICTS, YOU KNOW. YOU DON'T HAVE TO KILL ***EVERY-ONE*** YOU DON'T LIKE.

WHY NOT? IT'S WORKED OUT PRETTY WELL SO FAR.

Mayor Ivy! I voted for her!

I'M WORRIED YOU MIGHT REALLY ***BELIEVE*** THAT. THIS ISN'T ***GOOD*** FOR YOU, PAMELA.

AND IT WON'T BE GOOD FOR ***GOTHAM.***

I BEG TO DIFFER.

You're not gonna believe it, chat, but Mayor Ivy is ***right here--***

MY POLLING NUMBERS ARE ***GREAT,*** PETER.

GOTHAM ***FINALLY*** HAS A LEADER WILLING TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GET THINGS DONE.

=Sigh=

YOUR PRECIOUS POLLING NUMBERS MIGHT BE GOOD FOR ***NOW.***

BUT WILL THEY ***STAY*** THAT WAY WHEN PEOPLE FIND OUT YOU'VE APPOINTED YOURSELF JUDGE, JURY, AND EXECUTIONER OF EVERY CROOKED CONTRACTOR IN THE CITY?

MAYOR ISLEY! COME QUICK! IT-- IT'S ***HUGE--*** AND IT ***SPEAKS--***

WHAT ARE YOU *TALKING* ABOUT, SPROUT?

IT JUST... *POPPED* OUT OF THE GROUND IN *ROBINSON PARK!*

AND IT'S GOT... *TEETH!*

FRIEND OR FOE?

WITH A DESCRIPTION LIKE *THAT?* COULD BE EITHER ONE.

I have enemies in this city.

But I also have enemies in places I can't **see.**

And if those two factions were ever to **collide...**

... I would be in a whole new **world** *of trouble.*

What on *earth...*

There he was. **The Hill.**

The most turnip-brained of the **Parliament of Trees.**

And if he'd traveled all the way here... it could only mean **bad news.**

FINALLY. I TOLD THE LITTLE ***SQUIRMY*** ONE TO GO AND ***FIND*** YOU.

I'M ***SCARED,*** IVY. YOU ***REALLY*** MESSED THINGS UP BY ***EATING*** BOG VENUS.

NOW THE WHOLE ***PARLIAMENT*** WANTS ***WAR.***

DC COMICS PRESENTS:

POISON IVY

CHAPTER FORTY-THREE.

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NEXT: THE FOURTH ESTATE

Supergirl's summer road trip through space takes an unexpected detour!

Ages 8-12

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ON SALE MAY 2026

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

DC VERTIGO

In 1993, DC launched its Vertigo imprint, a move that represented the medium's shift towards mature readers storytelling and robust genre exploration. While it included beloved series that were previously a part of the main DC line, Vertigo became defined by original concepts far outside of superheroes—many of which still stand as some of the most influential and revered comics of the modern era.

Readers came to know Vertigo as more than a publishing initiative, but as a sensibility and aesthetic. Comics that were bizarre and beautiful, transgressive and terrifying, poignant and passionate—*those* were Vertigo comics, and their success reshaped the comics industry itself along the way.

It's with that spirit that we bring you the DC Vertigo of today. The imprint first returned last fall by adopting the current series that truly embodies its ethos—*The Nice House by the Sea* by James Tynion IV and Álvaro Martínez Bueno—and it now expands with a slate of all-new series from bold and imaginative voices, starting in February of 2026 with *Bleeding Hearts* by Deniz Camp and Stipan Morian, *End of Life* by Kyle Starks and Steve Pugh, and T*he Peril of the Brutal Dark: An Ezra Cain Mystery* by Chris Condon and Jacob Phillips.

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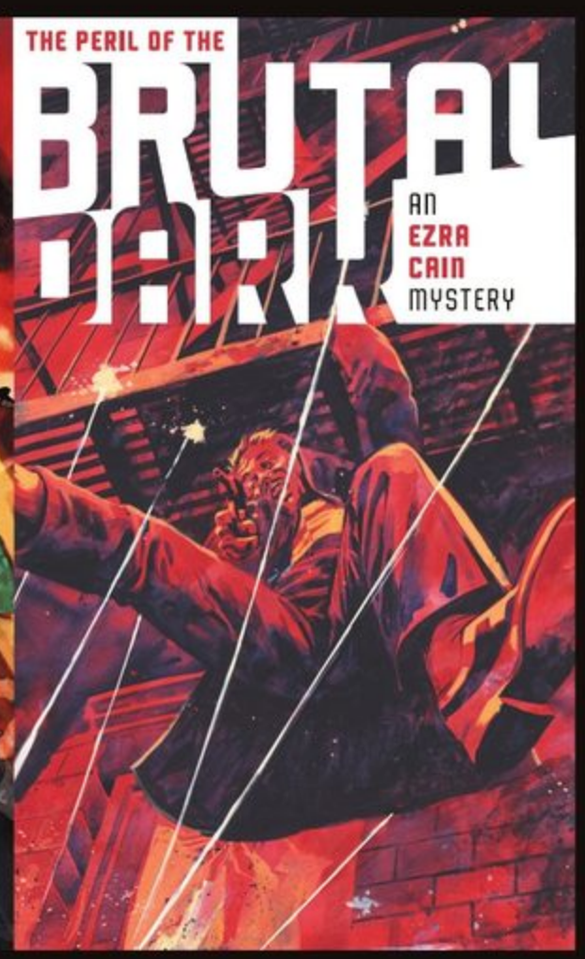

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